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ABSTRACT

This book examines issues in studying equal opportunity in colleges and universities, especially those in the United Kingdom, and methods for conducting research into equal opportunity issues. It is intended to provide a framework of ideas and starting points for research. Most of the techniques suggested are forms of participant research on a small scale, generally with an underlying approach of reflective practice and action research. The first chapter is an introduction to the overall series and a summary of several data collection techniques including questionnaires, interviews, observation, scenario analysis, diaries and field notes, and case study. Chapter 2 summarizes policy and procedures related to issues in equality and discusses the laws relating to equal opportunity and education in the United Kingdom. Chapter 3 explores issues related to equality in student selection such as appropriate criteria for admissions of non-traditional students and bias in vocational tests. Chapter 4 examines issues of race, culture, and background such as in how race is defined for research purposes. Chapter 5 discusses topics related to students with special needs including learning and physical disabilities. Chapter 6 discusses issues related to the topics of gender and equality in education. Chapter 7 is a practical guide to the process of publishing research results. Chapters contain checklists of research tasks. (Individual chapters contain references.) (JLS)

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